
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests and Range
Chief Forester's Office

ANNUAL CUT REDUCED FOR TREE FARM LICENCE 37

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for Tree Farm Licence 37 on north-central Vancouver Island will be reduced by about nine per cent, British Columbia deputy chief forester Henry Benskin announced today.

Effective Oct. 1, 2006, the new allowable annual cut (AAC) for Tree Farm Licence 37 will be 969,000 cubic metres. The new AAC includes a 37,000-cubic-metre partition for the helicopter logging of marginal hemlock and balsam stands. For the past 12 years, the AAC was set at 1,068,000 cubic metres. The tree farm licence is held by Western Forest Products Inc.

"This new AAC begins a gradual transition to harvest levels that are projected to be lower over the long term as we shift to harvesting more second-growth forests," Benskin said. "The AAC also reflects provisions for the careful management of environmental values including old growth trees, species at risk, and wildlife areas."

The determination also takes into account the two recently approved Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs) for the Lower and Upper Nimpkish Landscape Units and the associated legal orders that establish these landscape units and management objectives.

Each allowable annual cut determination is an independent, professional judgment based on the latest information ranging from technical forestry reports and public input, to government's social and economic objectives and consultation with the public and First Nations.

Under the timber supply review, the chief forester or deputy chief forester must determine how much wood can be harvested in each of the province's 37 timber supply areas and 33 tree farm licences at least once every five years. A new allowable annual cut can be determined earlier in response to abnormal situations, such as the mountain pine beetle epidemic, or postponed for another five years if the harvest level is not expected to change significantly. For additional information on the timber supply review, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts.

Tree farm licences are area-based tenures issued under the Forest Act, and give the licensee rights to manage Crown timber for sustained yield for 25 years. The licensee manages the area under the general supervision of the Ministry of Forests and Range and receives approval from the ministry for harvesting activities.

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A copy of the deputy chief forester's allowable annual cut rationale for Tree Farm Licence 37 is available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tfls.htm

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